Dangerous winter predators

(See Page 4)

Winter can be dangerous

Brave souls venturing out through the biting wind and freezing rain had better prepare themselves. Winter is a force to reckon with. Winter predators attack ferociously, leaving victims to suffer the wounds of frostbite, and hypothermia. Dressing for the elements can help protect against these predators.

Photo by Joe McCarthy

NIAGARA NEWS

Weather
Windy, snow, colder

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NIAGARA COLLEGE
Arts and Technology
WELLAND CAMPUS
LEARNING
RESOURCE CENTRE

Lack of interest

Hennepin Gallery may close doors

(See Page 3)

Knights come close, 5th ranked Humber wins in 86-82 clash

(See Page 10)

$1,000 gov't grant, $600 from SAC puts Frenchship Club on road

(See Page 3)

Valentine's Day

Friday's Feb. 14

(See Page 5)

Special school aims for independence

(See Page 12)

General College program enrolment hits peak

By ELIZABETH LeREVEREND
Staff Writer

More students are registered in the general college option at Niagara College than ever before and it may be due to a lack of preparation for college in high schools.

Dennis Malone, chairman of communication, social sciences and general studies, said his "educated guess" is that students transferring from other programs largely account for the "significant jump" in general college enrolment.

The 243 full and part-time students registered in the general college program came as a surprise to everyone, Mr. Malone said. The previous high was between 180 and 190. No one could have predicted the leap, he said.

The general college program helps students who are not sure of their goals but want a college education, allows students to obtain credits while waiting for an opening in over-subscribed programs and lets students ease into a full program of studies, Mr. Malone said.

Transferees

Another important function of the program is to combat high attrition rates of some programs. The general program keeps students in the college instead of having them drop out altogether, Mr. Malone said.

Many students transfer to general college when they realize their current program is not what they want, or they are not cut out for it academically or emotionally, Mr. Malone said.

Around the third week of the term, these students "make the long walk down the hall" to the general college co-ordinator's office and re-assess their goals.

The general college program is like "the Wendy's salad bar," Mr. Malone said. Students design their own course of study from a wide range of options. Career counselling and personal attention are emphasized. "The program's strength comes from its flexibility."

Sometimes, students come into a program who "beat the high school system," graduating without basic skills, Mr. Malone said. Others barely scrape through or don't have a strong background in areas such as math, English, biology, chemistry or physics, subjects vital to success in many college programs.

Not strong

Some instructors, particularly in business, have made the general observation that students coming into their program are not as academically strong as they were in the past, Mr. Malone said.

A business preparatory course offered through the general college program is in the works for next September. To combat the business school's high attrition rate the program will strengthen student "grounding" in important subjects, Mr. Malone said.

"It makes sense to offer this type of preparatory program," Mr. Malone said. It ensures that academically prepared students will be fed into the business program.

The structure is already in place for a business preparatory course and similar general college programs are success stories, Mr. Malone said. Many students would not get into nursing without health sciences preparatory courses offered through general college. "It improves the odds" for success.

The general college program tries to "catch students in the middle of changing goals," Mr. Malone said.

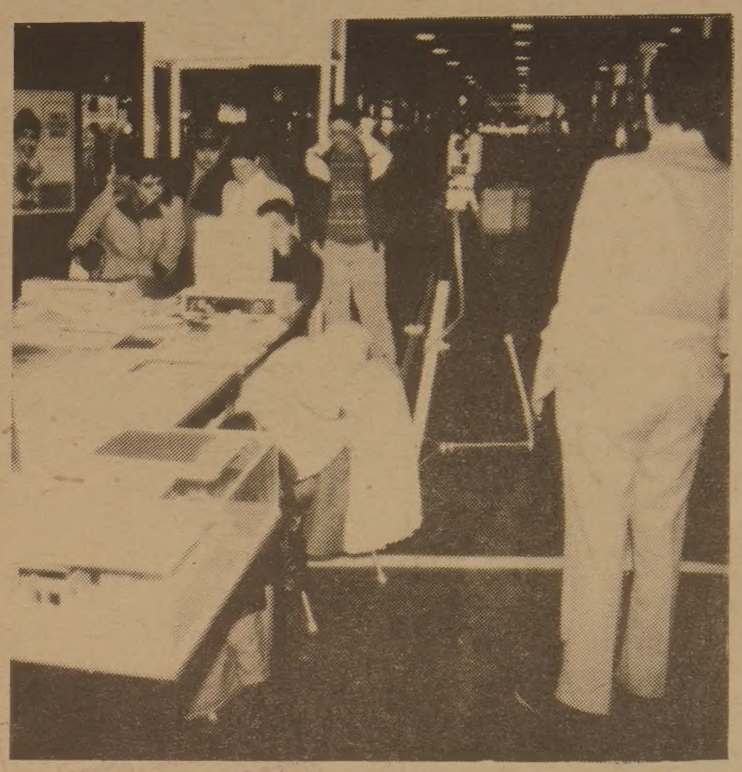
Falling enrolment in programs due to lack of public awareness

By ELAINE TROJAN
Staff Writer

A sirvayur? That, according to the Empire State Surveyor, is something that "does some kind of weerd dance...with a funny-looking 3-leg crutch" and is "squashed by cars along rodes, espeshelly in the summer when all the other bugs are out."

Spelling errors aside, this excerpt illustrates the problem that has led to low enrolment in the surveying technician and construction engineering technology programs — lack of public awareness. To increase public knowledge of the programs and the future jobs they make possible, booths were set up in malls in the region. The two co-ordinators — Tom McGuinness, surveying technician program, and Hans Miethig, construction engineering technology — said the booths confirmed that few people know about the programs.

Mr. McGuinness said few students entering college know what a surveyor is because they are not exposed to that area of study in high school.



Students of the surveying technician and construction engineering technology programs donated their time to attend a booth in the Pen Centre on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1. The purpose of the booths is to inform prospective students and their parents about the programs, which are suffering low enrolment.

Photo by Elaine Trojan

NEEDED IN INDUSTRY

"Industry is crying for people," he said. The program has 100 per cent placement in a related field.

Information about the programs was made available at the booths and a video made by the Niagara College media department, was played. The booths were at the Seaway Mall on Jan. 10 and 11, at Niagara Square on Jan. 17 and 18, and at the Pen Centre in St. Catharines on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1.

People were showing interest, Mr. McGuinness said. "We are visible, we are available."

Mr. Miethig said that prospective students and some of their parents had not heard of either program and were not aware that they are available at Niagara.

Niagara is not the only college hit with the low enrolment problem. Mr. Miethig said there is a general decline in student population across Ontario. Construction has been slow in the last couple of years in this area and it is reflected in the insufficient numbers of students in both programs in the last two years.

Mr. McGuinness said that the whole industry is concerned that "trained personnel will dry up." He said students obtain skills in

Further promotions will include advertisements in local newspapers and a promotional film to be made available to area high schools in 1986. Both teachers agree that "until the applications come in, all we can do is hope."

SAC gets club books, seizes raffle prize

The Student Administrative Council has received the books from the Niagara Business Management Association and will check them to make sure they are in order, Wayne Willis, executive vice-president, said.

SAC learned that a raffle the club sposnsored for a 10-speed bicycle never took place and SAC is in the process of collecting ticket stubs and money from club members, he said. SAC confiscated the bike from the NBMA office and will hold the draw when it receives the tickets.

SAC had been waiting for NBMA president Dino Giammarco to bring in the books since Jan. 10, and sent registered letters to Dino and his executive, the first step in pursuing the matter legally, Wayne said. SAC asked for the books after some "concerned club members" complained about the club's standing.

MONEY TURNED IN

"The books and $265 were turned in after Vince Ferro, NBMA vice-president of marketing, went and got them," Wayne said. "Dino never has made contact with the SAC office himself."

He said he will go over the books carefully to make sure everything is in order. This should take about a week.

"Right now my first priority is to get the 410 outstanding tickets (more than 500 were sold) and money from the bike raffle," Wayne said. "At this point, we have no idea how much money is unaccounted for."

He said the NBMA executive is co-operating in SAC's efforts and just wants to clear things up.

The NBMA executive is asking its 70 members to sign a vote of non-confidence in Dino, who still has not officially resigned.

ACTING PRESIDENT

Cristine Lesdow, NBMA vice-president and acting president, said at a club meeting Jan. 30 that she and other members want to get the club on its feet.

"We would like to turn the thing around," she said. "The club was very successful."

Vince Ferro said he thought the club could work.

The club is continuing with its fund-raising drive and is selling tickets in the college for a magic show Feb. 15.

Valentine's party goes Hawaiian

The Temple Club in Welland will be the scene of a Valentine's Day party co-sponsored by the Niagara College Ski and Computer clubs. The party, Feb. 14, will have a Hawaiian theme. Tickets on sale at the SAC office for $3 will be $4 at the door. The Temple Club is at 268 Main St. E., Welland.

Courses for French

In the interest of best serving the region's francophone population, the French language services department is offering two new courses.

Feb. 18 marks the start of the French Basic Job Readiness program, which runs for 20 weeks. Monique Morin, liaison officer for the department, said the course leans more toward English as a second language, "all the while teaching job skills such as interviews."

The course offers two levels, elementary and intermediate, with classses two nights per week and all day Saturday. "Surprisingly, there are a lot of people who speak only French who can't get around in Welland," Ms. Morin said. This course might help alleviate such problems while opening up the job market to francophones.

Another part-time course geared to francophones is the Basic Training Skills Development program, which began Jan. 13. The training is tailored for the individual, whose goals may range from obtaining Grade 10 for entering an adult training program, to a Grade 12 equivalency for entering studies at the college level.

The first two of four levels offer basics in English, French, and math, while levels three and four add science and biology. Ms. Morin said the course is ideal for francophones who have not had the opportunity to complete their secondary studies.

While both courses are being offered in collaboration with Employment and Immigration Canada, the BTSD course is held at the Ontario Youth Start Center in Welland. The Job Readiness program will be held at Confederation High School.

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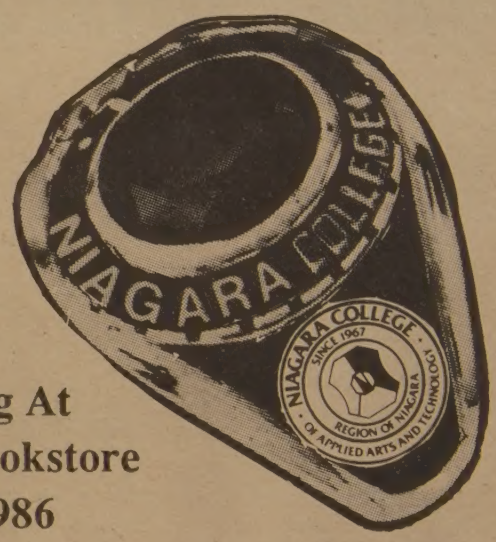
RING DAY



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NIAGARA COLLEGE SINCE 1967 REGION OF NIAGARA OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

AT THE NIAGARA COLLEGE BOOKSTORE

Lack of management volunteers may close Hennepin Art Gallery

By ELIZABETH LeREVEREND
Staff Writer

If no one volunteers to run the Hennepin Art Gallery by Feb. 15, there is a real danger it will close down, the man who first organized the gallery has warned.

Tom Fraser, chemical program instructor, said there is "definitely something wrong" with the college's attitude toward the arts, and the gallery may go the way of other arts projects which have "died" over the years.

The gallery's board of directors is having a hard time replacing the three co-curators who have organized the shows for two years, Mr. Fraser said.

The gallery's shows are lined up until May, but next year's shows are usually organized by the spring, Mr. Fraser said. If no curator is found come September ther will be no art shows and no art gallery.

Since 1979, when Mr. Fraser first organized the gallery, the charitable organization has been an outlet for local artists to display their work, and to introduce outside artists to the community through the Art Gallery of Ontario's Artists and Their Work, series.

The displays give the "captive audience" of anxious students something to watch as they pace the floors of the financial aid office.

The curator's job is not easy or glamorous, so it is hard to find volunteers, Mr. Fraser said. Curators arrange the shows, mail out invitations, hang the works and take them down. It is strictly a volunteer post — a $500 stipend covers travel costs and other expenses.

$7,000 BUDGET

The gallery's $7,000 operating budget comes from an Ontario Arts Council grant and the $10 memberships it issues yearly. Its Hennepin headquarters are rented from the college for $2,500 a year. Each show costs about $300 to $400 to produce, including a $200 honorarium to the artist, Mr. Fraser, said.

Soon after its inception, a decision was made to make the gallery more community-oriented. Representatives from art clubs in Welland, Port Colborne amd Pelham have volunteered their services, but if no curator is nominated from their ranks, the gallery board will "look into other alternatives," Mr. Fraser said.

Although Mr. Fraser has filled posts for the gallery in a pinch before, he said he won't do it this time. Anyone willing to volunteer their time may submit their name to the gallery board. A decision on the gallery's future should be made by the end of February, Mr. Fraser said.

Quack shot

Ken Winer, SAC vice-president of internal affairs, also known as Dick Van Duck, poses with Barb Asher to promote the celebrity look-alike contest held at the Aquaduck Feb. 5. Close to 300 people watched as Tony Salvatore walked off with top honors for his uncanny imitation of Kojak, which was made possible by a trip to the barber where he bared all.

Photo by Heather Jarden

3rd PAGE

$1,000 grant

Frenchship Club on to Quebec

By WAYNE NICHOLLS
Staff Writer

Merci beaucoup, Student Administrative Council! Quebec, allons-y!

A change of heart by SAC and an unexpected $1,000 government grant has students from Niagara's Frenchship club anxious to get on with their March break trip to Quebec.

SAC has decided to give the club $600 towards the trip. In December it informed that it would receive only $125 of $1,200 asked for.

A club request that SAC reconsider was turned down, but a last minute effort to finds funds paid off, Dennis Malone, chairman communication, social sciences and general studies, said.

"Claire Moccio, French language services, contacted Nicole Vigeant [former director of French services for Niagara who now works for the Ministry of Colleges and Universities] who suggested an application to the Ontario Quebec exchange commission to fund the trip," he said. "Luckily we applied at just the right time and they approved the application."

BECAUSE OF CUTS

Wayne Willis, executive vice-president, said the original request from the club was turned down because of budget cuts and a new SAC policy which put a limit on the amount of funds a club could receive.

The club has taken the trip to Quebec every March since 1969, the year the college opened, and has been given at least $1,000 from SAC since 1977.

"We reviewed the situation and thought we may have made a hasty decision," Wayne said last week.

A review of the club budget, which was reduced to $5,800 from $12,000 showed it is in good shape which allowed SAC members to change their minds on the Frenchship club, Wayne said.

"We allocated money assuming every club would apply for funds," he said. "Many clubs have not asked for money and it looks like we are going to end up with a surplus."

Board of Governors select 1986 chairman

The Niagara College Board of Governors has appointed the vice-president of Port Weller Dry Docks as its chairman for 1986.

Alex N. Elliot, a St. Catharines resident, was appointed to the board by the Council of Regents five years ago. F. Bill Ford, secretary of the Rotary Club in St. Catharines and director of the St. Catharines YMCA, was chosen as vice-chairman.

Mr. Elliot served last year as vice-chairman. He was also chairman of the fine arts committee. Mr. Elliot said that one of the major concerns facing Niagara College is the new Canadian job strategy program, whose objective is to provide education for the underprivileged and unemployed.

"This will be what community colleges will be involved in," Mr. Elliot said. "We will be phasing in programs that can be used by industry."

Declining enrolment and the quality of education are other areas of concern for the college, he said.

"We are also concerned about the quality of the education given to our students. We want to ensure our programs are effective."

Mr. Ford, who is in his fourth year with the board, is also chairman of the executive affairs committee. Bette Crockett was appointed chairman of the administrative affairs committee. Hugh Cook is chairman of the audit review committee. Anthony Mollica was appointed chairman of the staff and student affairs committee and Bill Heelis is chairman of the academic affairs committee.

Club passes audit Hotel executive says

An audit of the Hotel Club books has been completed with "no proof of any wrongdoing within the books," Pierre Kountouris, vice-president of the Hotel Club at the Rainbow Centre, said.

"Information in the books was not recorded as per standard procedures," he said last week. "The books have now been set to a more efficient accounting standard."

"That statement is sufficient," Pierre said. "There's nothing really to say. We want to start getting this college back to normal."

Hugo Bessems, student liaison officer, had said last fall an audit would be done by the college accounting people after some students made charges of impropriety in the running of the club to John Turner, Student Administrative Council president, in October. The students told John they thought club funds had been handled improperly. They said a vice-president had been appointed, not elected, and last year's president was still signing cheques.

Early in November, elections were held for two executive positions. Pierre was elected vice-president, and Wayne Smith was elected social convener. Mr. Smith resigned from his position Dec. 19 for personal reasons. Pierre said there are no plans to replace him at this time. The president, vice-president, and several class representatives have taken over his duties.

Mr. Bessems had said last year that Jill Knicley, the Hotel Club president, did what she thought best at the time by appointing a vice-president when the person elected to the position did not return to school and the runner-up turned the position down. The situation was not covered in the constitutional guidelines.

Mr. Bessems had said the past president had been signing cheques, "due to extenuating circumstances" which he would explain at a later date.

Grad photos

Last chance for students to have their graduation pictures taken is Feb. 17. The sitting fee is $5 at the SAC office.

Manitoba nickel

Journalism grad edits history

An early journalism graduate of Niagara College has become the editor of a history of the famous Thompson nickel find in northern Manitoba.

Ken Cherney, enrolled in the first Print-Journalism class in 1968, was its top graduate and honor student in 1970. He became the editor and co-ordinator of A Journey North; The Great Thompson Nickel Discovery by Hugh S. Fraser when an associate died.

Remembering his time at Niagara College and the newspaper business, Mr. Cherney joked in a letter to Niagara News' editor-in-chief Austin Jelbert.

"Remember how we were amused with the grads who set out to write the Great Canadian Novel? Foolish, every one of them. We had better things to do. Chasing fire engines. Attending boring city council meetings. Hiding from the bandits who memorized our faces at provincial court. But, get involved in book publishing? Forget it." Ignoring his own advice, Mr. Cherney took over the management of the project.

"I hope the journalism/PR/advertising fraternity does not reject me for this."

After graduating from Niagara College, Mr. Cherney worked for the Port Colborne News as reporter/editor before moving to Manitoba to become editor of the Manitoba Telephone System's monthly publication, Echo.

From there, he moved into the publicity department of INCO in Thompson, Man., becoming superintendent of public affairs for the division.

He is the manager of corporate communications in Toronto and it was there he became editor of the project.

The book was released last month.

Ostrander back

Willie Ostrander, co-ordinator of Hospital Orderly and Health Care program at Mount Carmel, is expected to return to her duties this week after recuperating from foot surgery performed early January at Women's College Hospital in Toronto.

Editorials

It's not MY fault

Passing the buck, it's what Canadians do when they want to blame others for things they have done themselves.

Passing the buck happens a lot when it comes to environmental issues.

Constituents blame politicians, politicians blame government policy, government blames private industry, private industry blames foreign industry, and so on and so on...

So where do our leaking waste dumps, toxic lake bottom blobs and radioactive anthills come from? Who really is to blame?

Why do ordinary citizens become so irate when they find out they are drinking dioxin and breathing noxious chemical compounds? They take no notice when breathing large doses of household cleaners and deodorant germ killing sprays.

Politicians blame government policy. No wonder! A $5,000 fine for each conviction is a licence to pollute. But what indications are there of changes in environmental standards laws?

Canadian industry blames foreign industry. A chemical dump belonging to Dow Chemical Canada Inc. in Sarnia was found this week to contain toxic waste the company said it had never produced, disposed of, or transported into Canada. Well, how did it get there? Dow doesn't know. Dow will likely never face charges involving the dumps because the wastes were deposited many years ago. Under present Ontario environmental laws, charges must be laid within two years of an incident.

So where does it all end? Where it began, in an endless round of passing the buck. What is meant by water consumption guidelines? Standards for compounds? Carbon filtration implementations? According to experts, a little cyanide leak out of a gully waste dump never hurt anyone.

Ellen Rodger

Canucks will fight

The Canadian government must think Canadians are really stupid. Just how long does it think the Canadian public will allow it to skirt issues having major repercussions on the economic and social well being of the country?

The Canadian dollar hit record lows plummeting to 69.56 cents (U.S.) last week. No problem, insists Finance Minister Michael Wilson, the dollar will rebound.

While experts say the dollar should not have fallen below the psychologically important 70-cent (U.S.) barrier, the government insists Canadian interest rates will fall and the dollar will rebound when the international money markets settle down. But no one can say when this will come to pass.

Some economic experts say short-term speculation, especially in Chicago, and the Canadian dollar's link to oil prices, which have also taken a dive, is the problem. But Ben Gestrin, vice-president and chief economist at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, says the government must prove it will "pull its socks up" before the dollar will recover.

So what does all this mean? Well, forget the Florida vacation for one. And pay through the teeth for fresh fruits and vegetables. And forget borrowing money. And forget buying a house. And students, be prepared to pay about $40 plus for a pair of jeans! The list goes on.

It is time for answers. Or at least a government willing to meet each crisis head on, not the "can't-be-reached-for-comment" attitude that seems to have a recurring presence in Canadian politics.

Nancy Roach

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The Niagara News is a practical lab for the Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of Niagara College.

The result of time, weather, neglect

Beware the pitfalls of poor household maintenance. It is a bother to paint, a shocking expense to repair and maintain a house, but let this be a warning to those home owners who let their homes slowly fall to wrack and ruin. It can creep up on them a little bit at a time; first the caulking around the windows goes and they start to fall out, then the paint outside peels off, the doors fall off their hinges, and the next thing you know, the walls are caving in on them. This terrible tragedy can be avoided with a minimum amount of money and maximum application of elbow grease. If the owner of this home had kept it up, it would not be in this shocking condition. It is obviously too late to do anything about it now.

Photo by Sandra Kish

Frostbite, hypothermia

Beware, cold weather can hurt

By ELLEN RODGER
Staff Writer

Some Canadians have forgotten how to dress for winter weather. They wander about on city streets in the heart of a snowfall, clad only in unzipped leather jackets, sweatshirts, jeans and running shoes.

These unwary beings are prey to a variety of winter hazards, and cold weather dressing is the best way to protect against them.

Frostbite, a common winter hazard which results in a loss of circulation and tissue injury, can be prevented by wearing proper winter clothing, Dr. G.J. Alexander, college doctor, said.

Symptoms

Frostbite attacks unprotected extremities first. A feeling of numbness, lack of sensation, itchy, prickly skin and stiffness are its symptoms. Dr. Alexander recommends wearing layers of clothing for warmth and protection from frostbite.

People who have underlying medical conditions or are rundown are especially susceptible to frostbite, Dr. Alexander said. Alcohol, commonly thought of as a "body warmer" in cold weather, can actually complicate cold weather hazards.

Avalanche victims would do better to have the St. Bernard rescue dog wrap himself around them, than to give them a cask of brandy, as alcohol dilates blood vessels and creates a false sensation of warmth, Dr. Alexander said.

Hypothermia, another winter hazard, occurs when core internal body temperature dips below 25 to 35 degrees centigrade.

Hypothermia can attack through cold atmospheric conditions and by immersion. People who chance a New Year's dip in a frozen lake or ocean also chance suffering from hypothermia.

Clinical manifestations of hypothermia include weakness, drowsiness, irritability, confusion and impaired co-ordination.

Dressing for the elements is the only sure-fire way to guard against these cold weather conditions.

The head has top priority on body heat. "Not nearly enough people wear hats; it's one of the silliest things Canadians can do," fashion arts co-ordinator Marie Lynch said. As blood vessels in the rest of the body close down to conserve heat, blood vessels in the brain stay wide open. The head won't feel as cold, but if it is kept warm, the rest of the body will feel warmer.

"The brain receives a large part of blood circulation, 15 per cent of body heat is lost from the head alone," Dr. Alexander said. A warm hat which fits snugly over the ears can help prevent heat loss.

Dr. Alexander advises wearing "something over the face," to gradually warm the air. Sudden cold air sometimes triggers an asthma-causing agent in people who have never suffered from it before.

Layering clothes is the best way to keep warm in winter, Ms. Lynch said. Layering traps heat, and layers can also be later removed.

Wool is still an excellent winter material, Ms. Lynch said. "A tightly knit wool sweater is still the best insulator." A lot of polyester mixes are not as practical as pure wool, she said. Wools that have more natural oils are also more practical, as they don't collapse when wet.

Big boots

Boots are a winter apparel item almost always forgotten; running shoes are not suitable for tramping through mounds of snow. Nearly any winter boot is suitable, as long as it is lined, Ms. Lynch said. Boots should be big enough to allow heat to circulate. "They should be plenty big; tight boots are uncomfortable and useless for warmth."

Letter

Good report

Dear Editor,

Congratulations to Monte Sonnenberg for his excellent description of Brian Green's presentation to the library technician students on videodisc technology.

The students in our program found Mr. Green's lecture to be interesting, informative and thought-provoking.

Bob Bowman, co-ordinator,
Library Technician Program

Focus

Instead of candy, try lacy lingerie

on Valentine's Day

By SEAN CONDON
Staff Writer

Lovers tired of flowers and a box of chocolates may want to try something offbeat this Valentine's Day. Erotic lingerie is becoming the standard for affectionate gift bearers.

"It's a lasting gift," Colleen Smith, manager of Love Affair in St. Catharines, said. "Flowers and candy are nice, but lingerie lasts."

Mrs. Smith said lingerie is making a big comeback. Men looking for a unique gift for their sweethearts are turning to teddies and baby dolls as a way of saying "I love you."

"When they take the time to buy a nice outfit, it's better than rushing into a flower shop and saying 'I want a bunch of those'," Mrs. Smith said. Men are "getting over their inhibitions," and women appreciate the gifts which result. "I think they're tired of seeing flannel."

She said the biggest sellers at Valentine's are the erotic lingerie and exotic chocolates.

At Erotique on Geneva Street in St. Catharines, secretary Maureen Ellis said crotchless panties with a heart design and heart-shaped G-strings are popular.

There are sheer French-maid aprons with a heart design for about $40. "Some people want just a little joke," Mrs. Ellis said of her store's products.

Valentine's business at both stores is second only to Christmas, and though neither shop specializes products for the occasion, red and white lingerie outsells the rest.

Lingerie has become a popular gift for lovers who want to give their Valentines something special. Colleen Smith, showing off one of her Love Affair store's bedtime outfits, said lingerie is becoming the standard present because "it's a lasting gift."
Photo by Sean Condon

"When customers buy something here, they think romantic thoughts," Mrs. Smith said. "It's for Valentine's Day."

Economic impact

Fluttering hearts ring registers

By JOSEPH McCARTHY
Staff Writer

As with some celebrations,there is the dubious distinction of why St. Valentine's Day was chosen to be remembered.

Under the Roman Emperor, Claudius, there was a bishop beheaded for his Christian allegiance but there is little to conect this event to the present day. There is an old notion that the significance arose from the works of Chaucer or Shakespeare, that on this day birds first choose their mates.

Or it could be attributed to a practice in times past in England and Scotland, each young bachelor or maid received by lot one of the opposite sex as a "valentine" for the year. It was a kind of mock betrothal, and was marked by an exchange of presents.

Whether it be an old English or Scottish custom or whether it came about from Chaucer or Shakespeare, there is on thing that can be said for this day. It certainly is a commercial success.

Ban day

Why, if this day were banned, just think of the economic impact it would have on the flower vendors, candy makers, greeting card manufacturers, not to mention the post office or telegraph and phone companies. Frankly, could society afford to ban this day? Industry would grind to a halt; all because some young man would like to say to the sweetheart of his choice, will you be my valentine. The things people would not do to

Yes, control over this day has been lost. It is a boom industry and setting economic records yearly all in the name of love. People have been known to make fantastic promise to do amazing things for love. Men have died to avenge their honor for a loved one. Countries have gone to war with each other in the name of love.

Funny thing, this expression of love. It seems to encompass so many things at the same time and has the power to affect so many people throughout the world regardless of creed or nationality. Is it possible to understand its many faces? Who knows?

It could be said that only those who have experienced the wonder of gazing into the eyes of the most wonderful girl, to know that special chemistry that takes place between the two, can understand this thing called love. Probably, this is at the root of the problem of reaching a justification for this celebration called St. Valentines Day.

Since when did love have to be justified or any day set aside for its honor? It is not in the realm of human logic, no, it is beyond it like Cupid's arrows. Cupid's arrows? That is another story of equal volume.

No reason

Let it be sufficient to say that there is no earthly reason for St. Valentine's Day except that winter is too long. Probably in someone's wisdom, setting the day for celebration served to speed the return of spring when, as it is known, everything starts buzzing. Bees do, birds do, everything that has life does, and just think, all in the name of love.

Bullpit:

Don't blame messengers for bad tidings, they can only deliver what they receive

By SANDRA KISH
Staff Writer

Journalism students are not diviners. Nor are they liars, or fabricators. They do not make up the news they print in the Niagara News; they simply cover it.

Complaints constantly filter into the journalism department from people who feel they have been misquoted, lied about or forgotten. "I didn't say that." "That isn't what I meant." "Why isn't there anything in the paper about...?" "Why is my story on page 9?"

Readers of papers can have legitimate complaints concerning their quotes and stories, but often they do not understand the workings of the paper and the reporters, and lay blame where none should be put.

Reporters cannot read minds. Whey they ask people if they have any news and the answer is no, they cannot look into the corners and crevices of that mind searching for that elusive story. All too often it miraculously appears — and is heard about — when someone complains the day the paper comes out.

Those students who feel slighted because their stories or events were not covered should ask themselves whom they contacted in the journalism department to tell about it. If they did not tell anyone, how will anyone know it is going on? There are no crystal balls in the journalism room.

When people give quotes to Niagara News reporters, they should stop and consider what they are saying sounds like. In print, a lot of comments can be misinterpreted. It is not up to the reporter to explain how the comments were meant, only to report accurately, and often word for word what was said to him. Think before you speak, is good advice.

Niagara News reporters do not make up stories and create their own news. They don't have to — there is enough real news going on in the college without having to make more up. And they are kept busy trying to find stories that no one knows are going on until after the paper is out.

College reporters are students like everyone else in the college. Journalism students are being trained to work as journalists in the field. Journalists are not expected to report only good news, nor are they expected to sugar-coat the scandals and murders they cover. They are expected to report fully all the details made available to them on anything they cover. If that is the public's expectation for banquets and pubs held at the school, then it is also the expectation for the problems and scandals.

All people have a right to be quoted in the paper, short of libel. The Niagara News prints all the facts and details known to them at the time, working with the limited amount of space avilable, and does not, at any time, try to put personal prejudices or vendettas on the news pages. Opinions — clearly labelled as such — are allowed on the editorial page.

Those who complain the loudest are sometimes the ones who say there is nothing going on — when asked by a reporter what is new — or are the ones who have something going on they would rather not have made public.

That is not the fault of the reporters; their job is only to report what they see, hear and investigate. That's what they will be expected to do in the working world when they graduate, and that is what they are being trained to do here.

We'll try again....

As improper editing led to mutilation of this timely story last week, the Niagara News is reprinting it in this edition.

Ed.

By SANDRA KISH
Staff Writer

This is not another boring, traditional story about a brown furry marmot who purportedly peeks out of his burrow looking for his shadow so he may forecast the weather for the upcoming six weeks.

This will not be a long discourse on the varying legends behind the holiday, supported by facts from several different sources, most of them bearing the word encyclopedia somewhere in their title.

Every year there are some newspapers that go on about the origins of the annual event, how it is thought to have begun in England or Scotland or Germany, depending on the source used, brought about as the result of the Roman Catholic feast holiday Candlemas to aid peasants in knowing when to begin spring planting.

They print the rhymes and ditties such as the old English song:

If Candlemas be fair and bright,
Come, Winter, have another flight;
If Candlemas bring clouds and rain
Go, Winter, and come not again.

They use the old Scottish saying;

If Candlemas be fair,
There be two winters in the year.

Most people know that Groundhog Day has become a North American tradition that focuses human hopes for fair weather on a small fat animal that is not even aware of what is going on. They don't need to be told again in yet another story.

There will be no quotes from Punxsutawney Phil, the groundhog from Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. Nor will there be any from his Canadian cousin, Wiarton Willie from Wiarton, Ont., a small community 15 kilometres northwest of Owen Sound which celebrates the event with an annual Groundhog Day festival weekend with Willie's forecast as the highlight.

According to an article in the Globe and Mail, Feb. 5, 1985, Wiarton has a genuine claim to their Groundhog Day report based on an Indian legend. The article cites a 700-year-old Mohawk legend about a brave who travelled north in search of food during a severe winter. He came to a land of "great forests and stone cliffs and frozen bays and lakes" - a description that apparently fits Wiarton. The brave, who was starving to death, suddenly saw a groundhog poke its head out of its burrow — he caught it and ate it, saving himself.

But this groundhog story is not about that either.

This is for all those people out there who are ready to start a new tradition in their year, celebrating February the second in a new way, for those individuals ready for a change.

It seems there is an old Mohawk woman near Wiarton who has some family secrets, handed down for generations, for the most delicious recipes for groundhog - she is willing to part with them.

Working on the chain gang

It would be hard for these children to get lost in a crowd, that is the whole idea behind the rope. It makes it simpler and safer to cross busy intersections, and when travelling through the busy downtown areas. It also puts a stop to dawdling in line. Falling behind in this group could be a drag.

Photo by Sandra Kish

Ministry announces funding

Gregory Sorbara, minister of skills development and minister of colleges and universities, announced funding Jan. 22 at the University of Toronto for 61,000 jobs to be available for young people this summer.

Speaking on the Erindale campus, Mr. Sorbara said $43.8 million has been earmarked for three student aid programs: Experience 86, Ontario Youth Employment Program and Student Venture Capital program.

"Perhaps one of the best forms of student aid is a summer job," Mr. Sorbara said in announcing the funding. "As Minister of Colleges and Universities and the Minister of Skills Development, I am very pleased when the program of one of my ministries help the young people who are also the concern of the other."

Mr. Sorbara said additional jobs would be available through other programs such as the Junior Rangers, and a program for student dependents of social assistance recipients.

Applications for the Student Venture Capital and Experience 86 programs will be available in mid February, and employer applications for the Ontario Youth Employment Program are to be sent out to more than 100,000 employers across the province in March.

Job creation program challenges students

A new federally-funded job creation program called Challenge 86 could give students the chance to self-market their skills to potential employers.

The program is offering suitable employers in the private sector a contribution of up to $3 per hour and up to 100 per cent of the adult minimum wage in the municipal and educational sector.

"The program provides an excellent means by which a student can persuade an employer to hire him," Erik Madsen, Niagara co-op counsellor, said. "It will encourage employers to take a look at someone they might not normally consider."

The subsidy is open to any employers who would like to apply, Janice Roy, project officer, said. But they have to be employers who don't normally hire students. Students interested in participating must be registered full-time and intending to return to school.

The program is concentrating on career-related jobs which allow students to participate in employment activities clearly linked to their course of study.

Employers looking for students to fill generally-oriented positions will also be considered by Challenge 86.

"These jobs involve doing work that doesn't require academic training," Mrs. Roy said. "This type of work may be suitable for high school students."

The earliest starting date is April 28 and the last finish date is Sept.5 with a maximum of 18 weeks employment.

All hiring for Challenge 86 is done through the Canada Employment Centre for Students and the deadline for employer applications is March 7.

"Students should be aware of the program so they can do some self-marketing," Ms. Roy said. "But they should be sure to register with the Canada Employment Centre because all hiring is done through them."

For applications and more information contact the Emploment Development Branch, 43 Church Street, Suite 703 St. Catharines, Ont. L2R 7EI, or call a project officer at (416) 688-6920.

Herb, where are you?

Attention Herb look alikes! The Radio Broadcasting Club is holding a pub Feb. 12 at the Aquaduck lounge. The best Herb clone can win a $50 prize. A giant heart of chocolates will also be raffled off.

Tickets are $3 at the door. All proceeds from the pub will help finance the club's trip to New York city. The club will visit NBC television station and will sit in on several network shows while in New York.

Hotel Centre introduces follow-up French course

Because students at the Rainbow Hotel Centre took time to make their wants known, a new French course began there last week.

Marcella Pittana, French teacher at the college, is "elated" with the introduction of Le Francais des Hotels et des Resteraunts.

"This course came about because the students wanted it and did something about it," she said. "It was a joint effort taken through the proper channels."

She said students had been feeling that their only French course, Le Francais Culinaire, could do with a follow-up course. Starting last year, they went through administrators and curriculum meetings until it was agreed that this year's second semester would bring with it a second French course.

The two-credit course which began with a class of 15, runs for two hours on Wednesday mornings. Mme Pittana said both courses are tailored to the students' needs, and prepare them to serve the public.

"Knowledge of English and French gives them an edge in the job market," she said.

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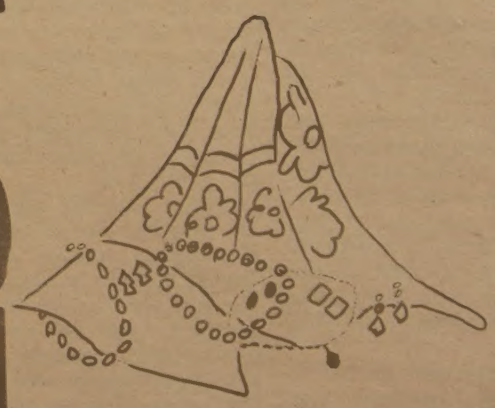

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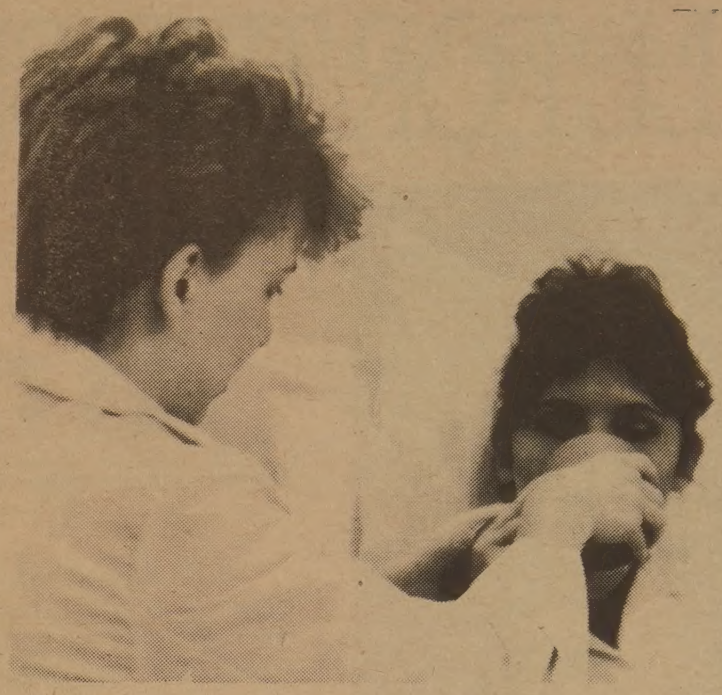
SPOTLIGHT on

Mack Centre

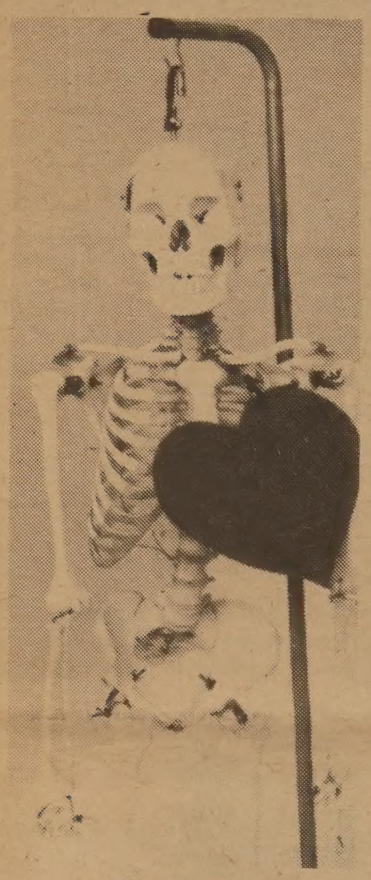
The nursing program prepares graduates to assist in meeting the preventive, curative and rehabilitative needs of individuals in all age groups.

Photos taken by Marie Chamberland, Sandra Kish, Joe McCarthy, and Brian Tracy.

This is where it all happens.



A thirsty patient gets a drink.

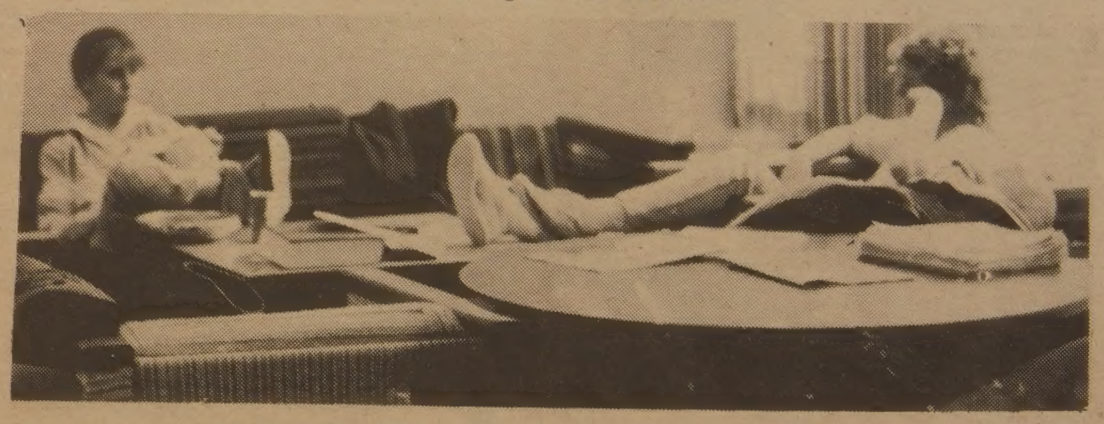


Have a heart!

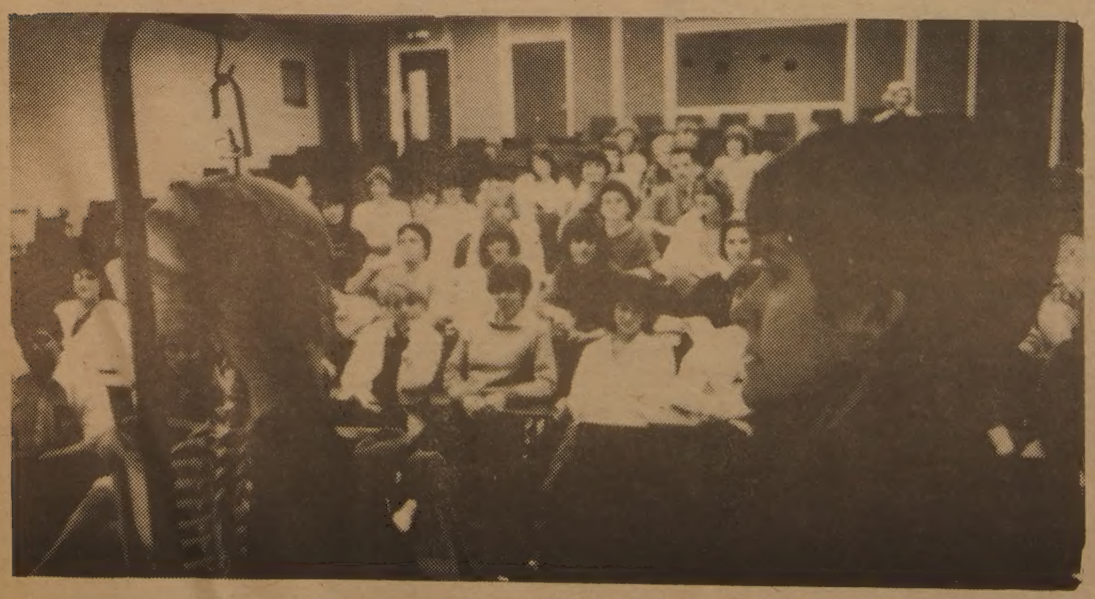
Learning to transport wheelchair patients.

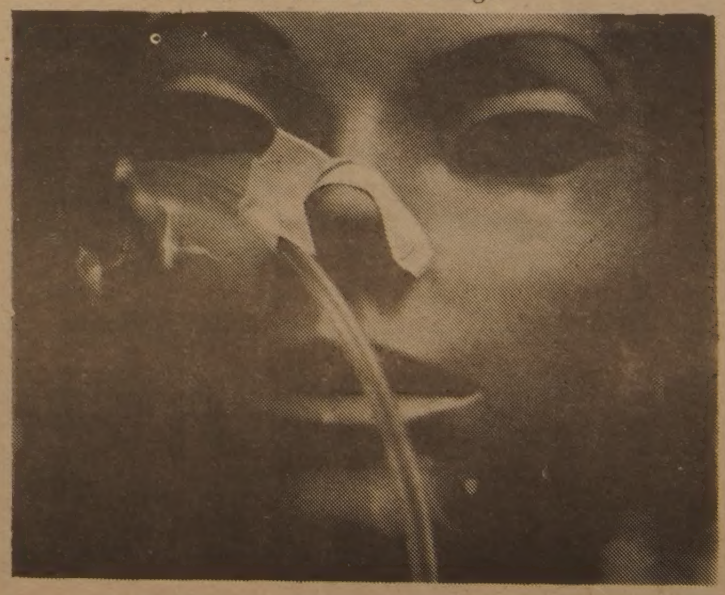
Linda Rennie, first-year nursing, demonstrates bed pan washing at the Mack Centre.

Sandra Langeloan, first-year nursing, charts a patient's progress at the Mack Centre.



Lisa Colbourne and Cindy Gonschior relax in the lounge.





Dummy patients are treated for various ailments by students.

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CONCH SHELL

1

This technique was first established by residents of the Seychelles Islands who used it to attract passing pods of sperm whales. Each pod, consisting of one or more whales, produced a sufficient wake to permit local residents to host 12 consecutive international surfing championships. More recently, conch blowing has become popular at numerous seaside watering holes where it was found to attract considerably more attention than the more conventional "Excuse me...waiter."

SEMAPHORE

2

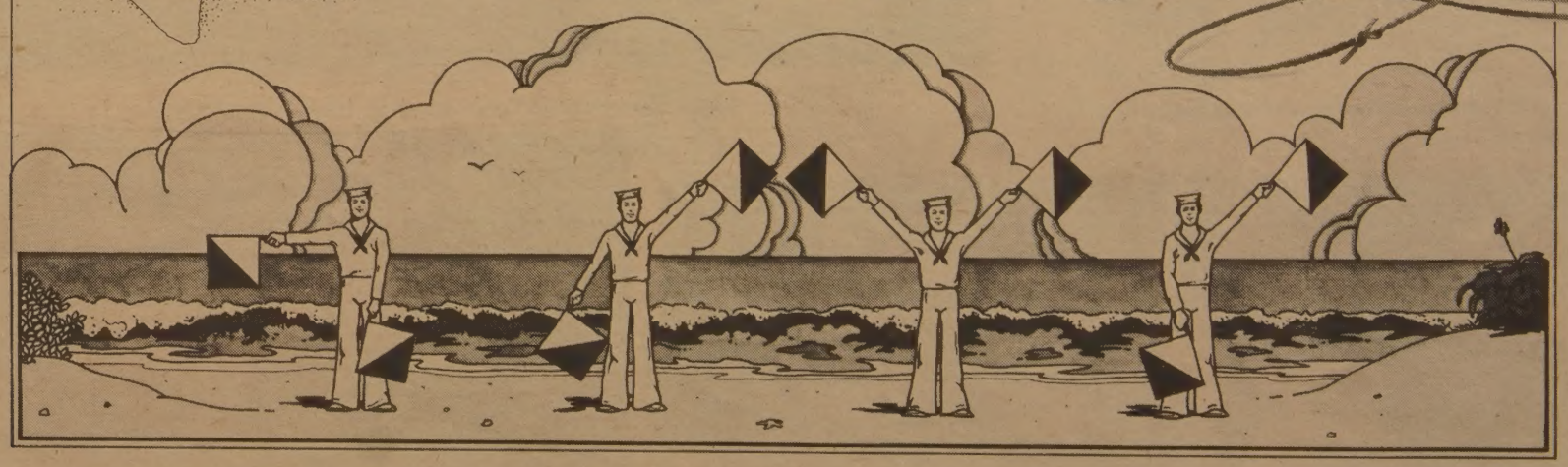
Or flag flapping as it is often called, enjoys considerable popularity among the nautically inclined. Practitioners of this particularly colourful form of communications have reported physical benefits such as an increase in the size of bicep, tricep and pectoral muscles. This has prompted one enterprising manufacturer of sporting equipment to introduce a new product called "Heavy Flags." This means that when calling for a Blue it is now possible to get bent into shape.

TIN CANS WITH STRING

3

Success with this approach depends largely upon the size of the cans and the length of the string used. Most waiters or waitresses will show some reluctance at the prospect of walking about their establishment with 50 gallon oil drums affixed to their hips. An empty Blue can (preferably of the larger variety) is considered de rigueur. Users should be advised that calls across the bar are cheaper after six and on Sundays.

Important: Many first time users of this proven technique have complained of what is generally referred to as the "Lloyd Bridges or Jacques Cousteau effect." This can be remedied by making sure that cans are completely drained prior to transmitting or receiving messages.



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Entertainment

Yuk Yuk comedian's routine big hit with college crowd

By SANDRA KISH
Staff Writer

From the moment he came out he developed a mood, working the audience with his suggestive humor, rarely breaking into laughter himself, depending on a routine in which he said things many of us think at times but are too bashful or repressed to spit out. His act was funny. The audience loved it.

Marty Putz, 23, the comedian who performed in the Hamilton Room, Thursday, Jan. 30, was not doing a stand-up comedy routine. He made liberal use of props and costumes, sometimes shocking the audience with his style and antics, but never losing their interest.

Marty's use of costume changes was integrated into the routine so well it added to the total effect.

Aggressive

His behavior was aggressive at times. He made use of such antics as bringing members of the audience down onto the stage area at dart-gun-point, and shooting rubber suction cup darts at them. The students got involved, the audience o-o-oohing and a-a-ahing on command, and enjoyed the show immensely.

There were some hecklers in the crowd, and someone even threw a shoe down into the area where Marty was performing. Marty did not even stop, integrating it all into his act, coming out with comebacks for the hecklers that kept the students in stitches.

"I don't mind hecklers," Marty commented later. "In fact, I like them. They make a good audience."

"He was really great," Ann Buller, Student Administrative Council activities programmer, said. "It was a good show."

"I purposely put on someone who was good, so we'd have a return audience."

Opening act

Marty, now working as the opening act for Billy Crystal's show at Massey Hall in Toronto, is not new to the entertainment scene. At the age of 18 he "hooked up with a magician, as his assistant."

Not totally satisfied with magic, he left that and began his comedy career. He has worked the college circuit for some time, and enjoys it. He works the "comedy Yuk Yuk circuit," which takes him across the border to Buffalo and Rochester; out west to Edmonton, and to his home town, Toronto. He did a European tour for the Canadian Armed Forces several years ago and worked with Paul Young last summer.

"The early days taught me a lot about working with audiences," he said. "And I didn't start in comedy clubs, of which I'm glad. A lot of things that are funny in a comedy club aren't funny outside. People are conditioned to laugh in comedy clubs."

Most of the props he uses are his own ideas. He gets an idea and tries it; if it works he uses it. He likes working with props in preference to stand-up comedy because it involves sight as well as sound.

"With the sight aspect you can play anywhere. I don't have to worry about the language barrier so much."

Marty said he would come back to Niagara College and do another show if asked.

"All my material is original and the show wouldn't be the same," he said.

If the student response in the Hamilton Room Jan. 30 was any indication, he would be well received.

Club atmosphere focus of production

The atmosphere of a private mens' club was the prevailing goal of the collective creative minds behind the next Niagara College Theatre Centre production, the first cast readthrough of the The Club last Monday night.

Brief synopses of the plot, music, set design, and costumes were presented to students at the Centre Feb. 3, in preparation for the production which runs from Feb. 25 to Feb. 28.

Valerie Grabove, program coordinator, said, the play centres on "a club for the fat cat type men of 1903." The muscial comedy is a send-up of the male chauvinism and class structure of the time.

The piano music, played by guest director Jill McKechnie, who assumes the stage role of Maestro, was written in 1977 to suit the early 1900s setting. Vocal harmonies are abundant, and Ms. McKechnie compared the score to the music of Gilbert and Sullivan.

With the set, Rod Hillier, scenic art instructor, said he wants to convey the feeling of a grand structure, but not an imposing one. Chandeliers, stained glass, and unorthodox seating arrangements are part of Mr. Hillier's contribution to the club atmosphere.

Joan Davies, costume designer, based her work for the production on the pen and ink drawings of Charles Dana Gibson, creator of The Gibson Girl. She said the clothing of the time was not very comfortable — almost like a uniform.

"We'll try to reproduce this as nearly as we can," she said.

Since all of the cast members are women playing men, there is a special challenge for the costume department. Flamboyant women's hats are also in the works for the Annual Spring Frolic, a play within the play, put on by the "gentlemen" of The Club.

Ticket reservations can be made through the Theatre Centre, 735-0550.

Proceeds from pub help buy ambulance

Permission has been granted by SAC for Ambulance students to play host to a pub at Niagara College Feb. 19, with all proceeds going toward the cost of an ambulance for the Ambulance and Emergency Care program, Grant Cooper, president of the Ambulance club, said last week.

The pub will feature the band Jeffrey and the Juniors and will be co-sponsored by the Student Administrative Council and Molson's. Ambulance and Emergency Care students will be bartenders and doormen.

Giving the go-ahead for the pub as a fund-raiser for the ambulance is how SAC and the administration can work together to make something possible that was not budgeted for, Grant said.

THANKS BESSEMS

"We'd like to thank Hugo Bessems [student liason officer] for helping us co-ordinate this event with SAC. He's done a lot to make it possible."

More than $2,000 of the estimated $6,500 cost of the ambulance has been raised, most of that generated by the sale of raffle tickets that entitles the winner to a free March-break vacation to Fort Lauderdale and $300 spending money, Grant said.

said. "Because of technological advancements in our field, there is lots of equipment we don't get to train on. We would like to have some of this latest technology."

Tickets to the Feb. 19 benefit go on sale this week and can be purchased at SAC offices at all Niagara College campuses and from Ambulance and Emergency Care students. Tickets will cost $3 in advance and $4 the night of the show.

400 summer jobs available

Representatives from Maple Leaf Village will be at the college looking for recruits to fill openings for almost 400 summer positions.

There are 24 positions available in the hotel area, 10 in the dining rooms, 80 in retail stores, 17 in guest services, 250 in the amusement park, three in security and six in the maintenance department.

"The jobs are wide open to any student in any program," placement officer Ken Anderson said. "Although students in related programs may have more of an advantage."

The placement office will gather applications and make arrangements for a Maple Leaf Village representative to come to the college to interview applicants and administer a short test, Mr. Anderson said.

Applications can be obtained from the placement office and must be completed and returned by Feb. 17.

Gov't program closes early

To the Inuit, katimavik means "meeting place;" for thousands of young Canadians, it stands for "discovery in action ;" for the federal government, it means spending $19.7 million a year and now they want to stop.

Katimavik is a program for young people aged 17 to 21 who want to spend nine months travelling and doing volunteer work across Canada.

The nine-year-old project was supposed to end in June of 1987 but the federal government wants to stop funding after March 1.

Gordon McPherson, Niagara College placement officer, said he had not known of the government's plan, but called Katimavik a "good, interesting program" and "a great experience."

Food for mood

In the 17th century, asparagus was thought to be an aphrodisiac, because it sprang from the ground after rain and resembled a phallic shape.

The tomato, long thought of as poison, was also thought to be an aphrodisiac. It was called the passion apple, and it was forbidden for the common people to eat it.

Today, food can be chic. Seafood, especially oysters and lobster, are rumored to enhance romance.

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Knights' upset bid falls short in OT

By J. ANGUS GILLESPIE
Staff Writer

The Niagara Knights men's basketball team came within inches of pulling off the biggest upset of the season, but the league-leading Humber Hawks prevailed in overtime 86-82.

With just a few seconds left in regulation time, and the score tied at 73, Knight guard Marty Fitzgerald tried a desperation shot from far out. The ball hit the backboard and bounced off the rim just barely missing what would have been the biggest upset of the year.

The game, played Jan. 30, was Niagara's best effort of the season. The teams were evenly matched, although Humber's impressive league record of 13-2 and Niagara's sub .500 would not have predicted such a close contest.

Humber opened the scoring in overtime, but again and again Niagara matched them point for point moving the ball quickly downcourt.

Vern Bovell converted a three-point play after being fouled to put Niagara into a temporary lead, 78-77. The Knights' chances were not helped when guard Perry Orosz, who was a key performer in the Knight attack, was forced to foul out of the game with time running out and Humber in the lead.

Marty Fitzgerald, who has been called the heart and soul of the Knights by coaches Russ Stevenson and Barry Golob, played an excellent game setting up the Knight offence, assisting on points and hustling for countless loose balls.

Mentally ready

"I thought we were going to win before the game started," Marty said. "We were mentally ready tonight especially because of the Sheridan game." (The Knights lost the game by 29).

Marty attributes the better play of the Knights to having more players on the roster. "At the start of the year we only had seven or eight guys, so a lot of the practices were individual work. Now with more guys we are able to practise as a team."

Marty is a 24-year-old Welland native and has played basketball with Mount Allison and Brock Universities before playing at Niagara. His aggressive, reckless abandon style was instrumental in the Knights picking up so many loose balls. "It gets people going," he said. "The more people we have diving for balls, the more we'll get."

The Knights started the game quickly and with five minutes gone in the game, they held a 10-9 lead.

Both teams were successful with outside shooting, especially Henry Fraser of Humber and Frank Greco of Niagara.

Midway through the first half both teams experienced scoring difficulties as neither side scored for about four minutes until Bovell hit an outside jumper for Niagara at the eight-minute mark to end the scoring drought. The half ended with Humber clinging to a slim 38-35 advantage.

Team improves

The addition of Andrew Mosley at the power forward position is one of the main reasons the Knights have improved so much of late. The team now has a much taller starting front line which means more rebounds and points.

The big front line of the Knights often frustrated the Hawks who were forced to take many more fouls than would normally be expected. Starting Hawk centre James Edwards was hit the hardest, committing three fouls by the midway point of the first half. His replacements found the going just as tough, with two of them eventually fouling out.

The entire second half saw both teams continue their fine outside shooting, with the Knights trying to get the ball inside to Mosley and centre Fred Jashanmal whenever possible to make the most of their height advantage.

Neither team could build a substantial lead on the other throughout the second half with five points being the largest spread.

Jashanmal hit an outside shot with 1:09 left in regulation time. He was fouled on the play and converted the free throw, to put the Knights up by one.

Humber came downcourt and scored but Niagara was able to pick up one point after a foul was charged against the Hawks. Niagara called its final time-out with 26 seconds left to plan an offensive strategy, but the clock ran out with the game tied.

Greco was the game's high scorer with 20 points. Orosz and Jashanmal had 13 each and Mosley had 10 for Niagara. Phil Hylton with 19, Maurice Armstrong and Henry Fraser with 15, led the Hawks.

The Knights' next game is this Thursday when they play host to the Fanshawe Falcons, a team they must beat if they hope to advance to post-season play. Game time is 8 p.m.

Olsson leads comeback, scores three

The Niagara College men's hockey team scored five unanswered goals to erase a two-goal disadvantage and defeat the University of Rochester Yellow Jackets 7-4. Trailing Rochester 4-2 mid way through the second period the Knights scored twice to even the score and then added three goals early in the third period. Jim Olsson led the Niagara scoring attack with three goals.

The Knights began the game, played Feb. 1 in Rochester, slowly, an apparent effect of the long bus trip, and the Yellow Jackets grabbed the early lead. Mike Lortie took advantage of a two-on-one break to score the game's first goal. Curtis Kelly scored with Niagara enjoying a two-man advantage to tie the score. Dave Penantino restored Rochester's lead from a scramble in front of Niagara goalie Kirk Patterson. Olsson stole the puck and went down in alone to tie the score. Joe Wilson gave Rochester the lead after one period of play when he scored late in the period.

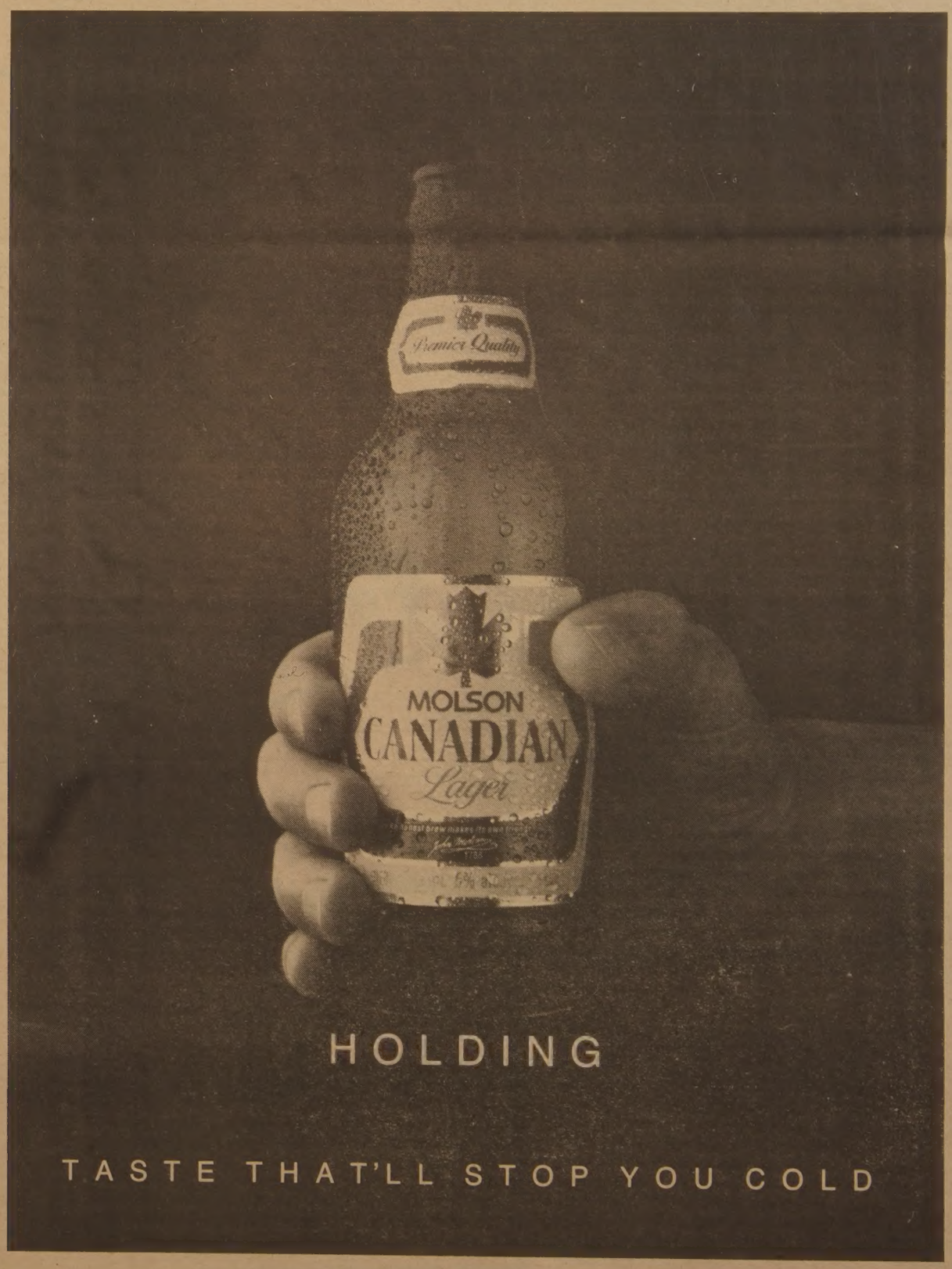
Dave Levea scored a powerplay goal early in the second to make the score 4-2 in favor of Rochester. Levea's goal seemed to wake up the Knights and they began to carry the play. Olsson narrowed the margin to one and Mike Thoms, on the powerplay, evened the count.

First lead

Olsson scored his third of the night just 34 seconds into the third period to give Niagara its first lead. Cam Bedard's powerplay goal only 2:18 later gave Niagara a 6-4 lead. Wayne Conn beat Rochester goalie Chip Walter with each team a man short to really take the sting out of the Yellow Jackets.

Niagara coach Fred Bassi agreed that the long bus trip and lack of a warm up hurt the Knights. "We started out very slowly," he said.

The Knights now have a record of seven wins and three losses. Their next game will be Feb. 16 when they entertain the Erie Community College Kats at the Welland arena at 8 p.m.



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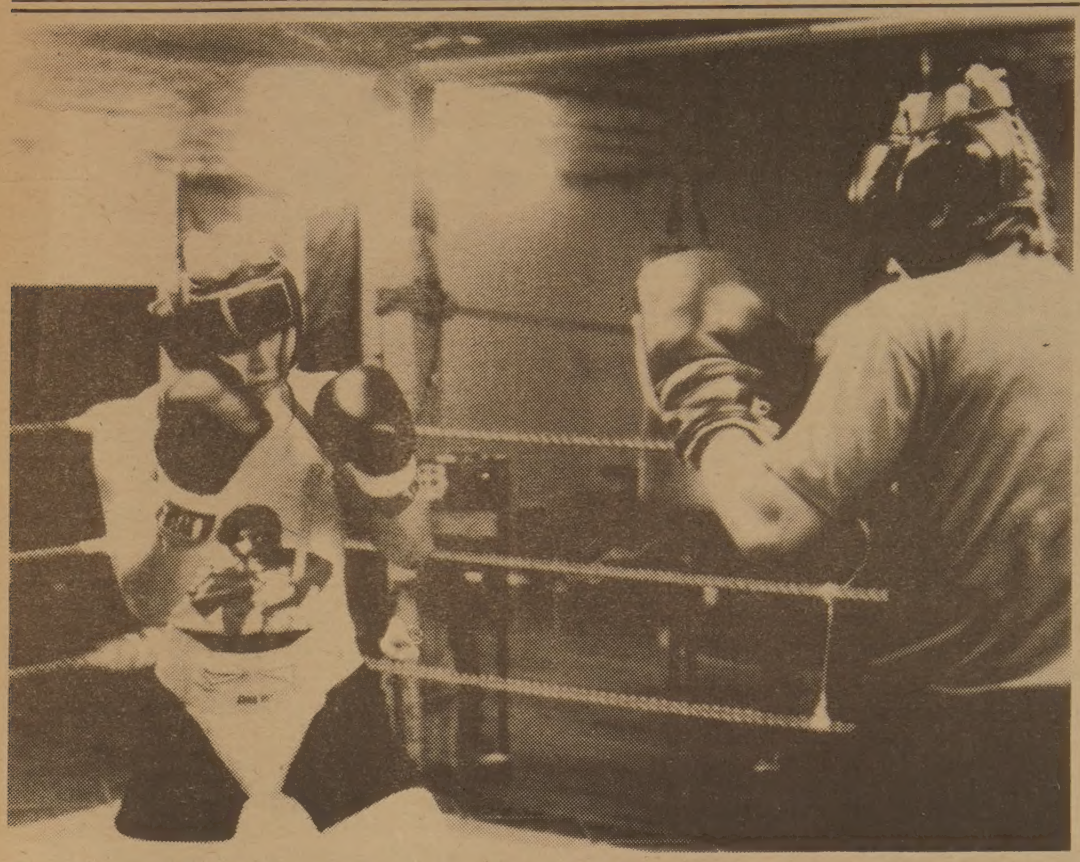
Basketball

Volleyball



Reno Pasqua, left, and Jerry McMaster can be found sweating it out at the Niagara Falls Boxing Club every day between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Mr. Pasqua and Mr. McMaster practise their boxing technique by sparring with each other in a three-round match. Mr. Pasqua, a former Niagara College student, training since the age of 15, begins his daily workout by shadow boxing and continues on with sparring and slugging it out with the heavy bag and the speed bag. Boxing is more than throwing punches; one must be able to take a punch as well. Mr. Pasqua hopes his persistence pays off with a shot at becoming pro.

Photo by Jackie Foster

Quick hands,eyes boxers' secret

BY JACKIE FOSTER
Staff Writer

Desire, get-up-and-go and lots of heart, that's what make a good boxer.

The secret to boxing isn't not getting hit; everyone gets hit, John Degazio, owner of Niagara Falls Boxing Club, said. "The secret is to take some and give some."

Boxers, not fighters — it sounds too much like street brawling, he said — have to have quick eyes and quick hands and learn both offence and defence; both are important. "All you can do is hope you won't get hit."

Reno Pasqua, 20, former Niagara College student training at the boxing club, said determination and heart are important in making a good boxer as well as being able to take a punch and throw one. "You have to be able to miss those punches too."

Former boxer

Mr. Degazio, a former amateur boxer and trainer at the club, said he doesn't think there is such a thing as a natural born boxer. Hard training is necessary to be a good boxer. It is important to keep the body in tone and in shape.

Club training is done in three-minute intervals; boxers practise putting everything they have into those three minutes, just like a round, Mr. Degazio said. "I train them to keep their hands up always. You have got to keep those hands up."

Mr. Pasqua, who has been training since the age of 15, runs three miles before breakfast. From 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. he goes to the club. "I begin with shadow boxing, then go to the heavy bag and the speed bag. Then I spar, skip rope and exercise."

Boxing strategy has no set rules — "you have to feel the other guy out," he said.

The first round is the thinking round for Mr. Pasqua. "I see what the other guy is doing first." Some boxers go into the round punching and keep punching until the guy drops. "I don't do this because if you get tired, then you're in trouble."

Adrenalin flows

Stepping into the ring waiting for the match to begin allows no time to think. The adrenalin is pumping and all that is on the mind is getting hit, Mr. Pasqua said. "If you start thinking about anything else, then you are in trouble."

"I dont't see boxing as a violent sport," Mr. Degazio said, "but the public does. We see it under controlled conditions."

Peter Thompson, father of one of the trainees, said he would rather see his son at the club than in most sports. "My son was in wrestling before and I took him out because he would come home battered. Did you know there are a greater number of injuries percentage-wise in the game of golf?"

Tech grads go longer

This year's graduates of the power engineering technician program will have to attend school 24 weeks longer than last year's students. However, those extra 24 weeks will earn them a higher certification — third class stationary engineer — a first for Niagara.

The power generating equipment, which provides the students with hands-on experience, has been approved by the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations to provide the upgraded certification for the graduates. Until now, the program lasted for 40 weeks and provided students with fourth class certification.

Ross Stone of the Ministry and John Cerniuk, member of the board of review, advisory board to the Ministry, visited the college on Friday, Jan. 31 to take a look at the equipment they approved. Mr. Stone said he was impressed with the "good set-up" at the college.

The students will need 15 months qualifying time to achieve third class status. The program, which will is sponsored by Canada Employment and Immigration, is a co-op program. The students will spend six months in industry gaining experience for related employment.

The equipment the students operate include a 1.5 kilowatt turbine-driven generator and a new boiler, which enables the students to acheive third class certification. This equipment cost the college about $100,000.

The graduates will obtain a power engineering technician diploma and a Gas Fitter II provisional licence in addition to third class stationary engineer certificate.

Fine play continues, playoff hopes alive

By J. ANGUS GILLESPIE
Staff Writer

The Niagara Knights men's basketball team continued their fine play and came up with an important win as they soundly defeated the Conestoga Condors 78-56 to keep their playoff hopes alive.

The game, played Jan. 31 in Kitchener, was totally dominated by the Knights both on the court and in the statistics.

The Knights led at halftime by 14 points, but coach Russ Stevenson said he made it clear to the players that the victory had to be at least 18 points.

Earlier in the season the Condors defeated the Knights by 17 points, so if the teams are tied at the end of the season, the Knights will finish in the higher position because their margin of victory was 21.

Mr. Stevenson praised the effort of his players saying they responded to pressure when they had to. The Knights have improved tremendously, but considering they lost to the Condors by 17 last time, a victory of 21 points shows just how much they have developed.

"We could have had a mental letdown, but we didn't," Mr. Stevenson said, referring to the heartbreaking loss in overtime to the Humber Hawks. "We came out and did the job we had to."

The Knights were able to pick up lots of points from the hot outside shooting of Frank Greco. By the time the Condors became aware of his excellent shooting, the Knights were already in total control.

No letdown

Mr. Stevenson agrees the Knights have improved, but noted they played without starting guard, and team leader, Marty Fitzgerald the last time they played Conestoga.

"Marty played a great game, and Shawn (Fitzgerald) is an adequate back-up, while Perry Orosz had an excellent game at the other guard position," Mr. Stevenson said.

Greco led the Knights in scoring with 22 while Jashanmal added 17 and Orosz 13. Top scorers for the Condors were Les Robertson, 15, Alex Yandryk, 13, and Greg Benson, 10.

Mixed tourney

Badgers capture intramural volleyball

The Badgers won the intramural mixed volleyball championship held last Tuesday afternoon.

They defeated the Doesn't Matter team representing the Law and Security program in straight games by scores of 15-2 and 15-10.

Despite a spirited comeback in the second game, the Doesn't Matter team, led by Brian Bylsma, couldn't quite handle the depth of the Badgers.

The Badgers: Ray Sarkis, Jim Olsson, Chris Kowalczyk, Joe Maiolo, Jacquie Boilard, Marilyn Sarkis and Ingrid Brunner, swept the three-week tournament and were awarded their medals by Mizette Critelli, instructor.

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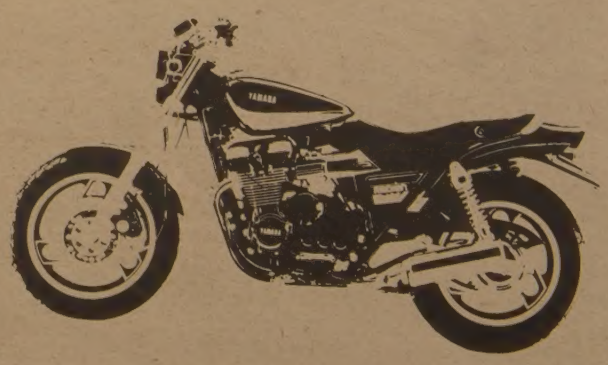

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Ambulance and Emergency Care student Barb Candy observes as kindergarten students at the Niagara Children's Centre begin to create paper doctor bags. Barb spent the day at the centre as part of her course's placement requirement. Completed doctor bags were filled with paper replicas of medical paraphernalia cut out and colored by the students. The children were eager to join in all the afternoon activities, including being weighed on a doctor's scale, which were based on the day's theme of a trip to the hospital.

Photo by Michelle Muylaert

Peninsula special school aims for independence

By MICHELLE MUYLAERT
Staff Writer

Their day begins like any other school day. Children scurrying from the school bus eager to begin the morning's activities. But there is a difference. For these children, with their wheelchairs and crutches, life is a challenge — even getting off the school bus is a challenge.

Children at the Niagara Peninsula Crippled Children's Centre suffer many different handicaps; most have cerebral palsy, some have spina bifida and others have various forms of muscular dystrophy causing them all to have difficulty with motor movements.

Independence

Instruction at the centre begins from kindergarten up to an intermediate level with the purpose of making the children independent enough to enter the work force or the regular school system.

"We try to integrate older students into high school wherever possible," school principal Murray Wall said.

Children four to nine begin their studies at the kindergarten level. They gather in a circle and take part in activities including greetings, a weather report and a sing-song. Those unable to sit up on their own are assisted by aides and therapists. For the teacher, working with the handicapped youngsters is a special challenge.

"Each child has to have aims and objectives," Pat Archibald, kindergarten teacher, said. "Each one is at different levels in certain areas. We have to gear instruction to an individual level. It is the only way it can be beneficial to the children."

The classroom theme for the day was a trip to the hospital, a rare experience for most children but for them a way of life.

"They have to get used to the medical equipment which can be so frightening to them," Mrs. Archibald said. "So many of the children have had surgery and spent time in the hospital. The other day the kids were showing off their scars. How many children in kindergarten have scars?"

The children were delighted when the teacher calculated their weight and heights from a doctor's scale brought into the classroom. Those unable to stand on the scale were held in the arms of an aide. Readings of 35 and 40 pounds revealed their fragility.

The children finished their activities by making paper doctor bags and filling them with paper replicas of needles and medicine, items well-known to them. As one young boy with CP colored his bottle of medicine a bright yellow, he declared optimistically, "This is the medicine that will cure everything."

Students in the intermediate classroom learn regular subjects. Typing, math, spelling, language arts, famous people, novel studies, oral reading and occasional movies make up their curriculum.

With such a heavy workload and the necessity for individual instruction, the role of the volunteer helper is a vital one.

"Without the volunteers this whole centre would fall apart," Mrs. Archibald said. "They free you up while you work with other kids."

Academic courses are only part of the studies for these students. Speech therapy, physiotherapy, audiotherapy and occupational therapy are as necessary as reading and writing.

Speech therapist Joyce Middleton works with all types of voice disorders usually a result of screaming or some other vocal abuse.

Those unable to communicate verbally must find an alternative method. For many students Blissymblic symbols take the place of words. A Bliss board has a series of symbols to which the child finger or eye points to create sentences.

Choice

"Children have a choice of their communication system, but Bliss has the highest level of use because it gives them more scope," Mrs. Middleton said. "Bliss is ideal because anyone can understand. With sign language or other forms of communication, others have to know it."

Physical therapy done in a swimming pool warms and loosens the joints, Range and motion and breathing exercises done in the water are easier and beneficial because the students are not fighting against gravity.

Water safety and swimming techniques are taught to more mobile students.

The goal these students are trying to reach is the same as a normal child's but it is complicated with never-ending obstacles they must overcome.

"We attempt to prepare students for job situations," Mr. Wall said. "Those who are severely involved and do not get into the working force stay here for their entire education."

Mr. Wall said those students with more severe handicaps may get contract work at institutions like the March of Dimes. Those who are less severe go on to secondary school to learn about future employment.

"The students have a better chance now because of the push towards hiring minority groups," Mr. Wall said.

The bond between teacher and child is strong. Personal relationships are inevitable. While most of the children afflicted with CP and spina bifida will have a normal life span, those with MD only live to between 14 and 22.

"One year we lost five kids," Mr. Wall said. "You have to do a lot of talking with people. And believe it or not, the family is often a comfort to us. They have come to terms with it.

Winner gets choice of spot

About $600 was raised for Ambo Junior College of Agriculture in Ethiopia after a personalized parking spot was raffled Jan. 31.

Bruce Milligan, law and security co-ordinator, is the lucky winner of the spot, Foster Zanutto, director of information services, said. Mr. Milligan can select a spot, good from Aug. 1 to July 31, 1987.

The purpose of the fund-raising is to help Africa combat the ravages of drought and famine. But, rather than sending money for food, the Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC) wanted to help fund the Ethiopian college to enable Africa to increase agricultural production.

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